



United States Department of Agriculture  
Hispanic Serving Institutions National Program

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CULTIVATING KNOWLEDGE. DEVELOPING LEADERS.



LIAISONS | INTERNS | SCHOLARS | AMBASSADORS | FELLOWS | GRANTS



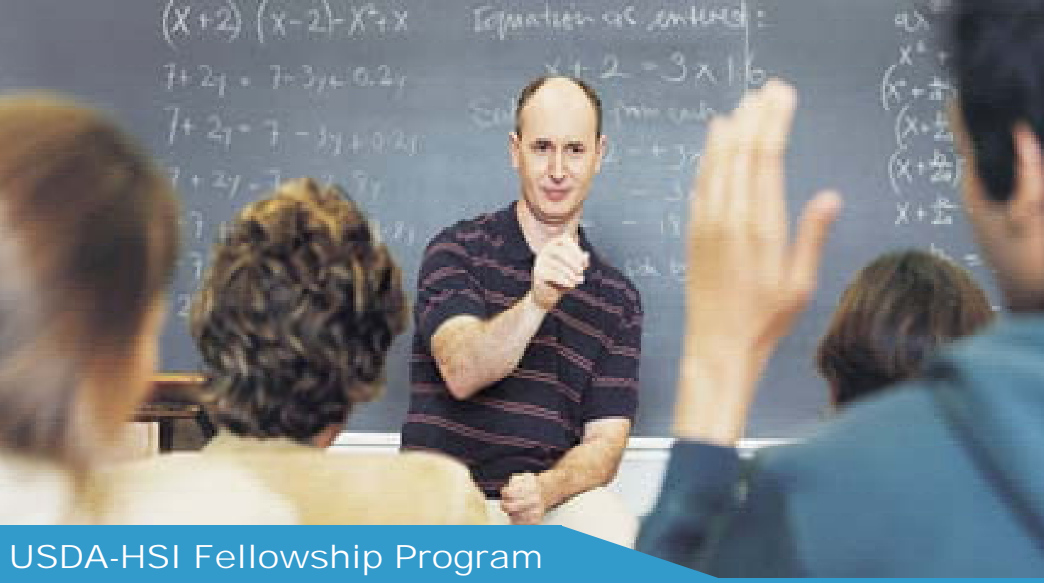
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## Grants Workshops

Our office organizes regional workshops for HSI faculty, staff, and administrators interested in learning and applying for federal grant and funding opportunities. We partner with numerous federal agencies to interact with program managers and grant recipients, explain the application process, and answer questions from participants.

The workshops are an excellent platform to network with HSI representatives and other government officials, as well as increase the quality and quantity of applicants to your programs. Workshops are also conducted online to facilitate access and reduce travel costs for HSI and agency representatives.



## USDA-HSI Fellowship Program

Provides faculty and staff from HSIs with the opportunity to work and study with USDA and other Federal personnel for a period of two to four weeks during the summer. While in Washington, D.C., Fellows are expected to focus on areas relevant to the needs of their institutions and USDA.

The program is designed to:

- ✓ Advance USDA's relationships with the participating institutions;
- ✓ Enhance the capacity of the institution's programs and staff;
- ✓ Engage the institutions in an ongoing dialogue on the educational challenges of Hispanics; and
- ✓ Increase their awareness of the current demands of the federal workplace.

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## Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide mutually beneficial partnerships between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs). We partner with representatives of educational, business, professional and community organizations to cultivate knowledge and develop leaders.

We accomplish our mission by providing academic, professional, and institutional development opportunities for students, faculty and staff from HSI's with internships, scholarships, grants, and fellowships. Our aim is to increase USDA's Hispanic representation and to enhance institutional capacity of HSIs.

Our Agricultural Liaisons Officers are strategically positioned to assist your agency in reaching students, faculty, and staff at HSIs nationwide, and our management team in Washington, DC works in partnership with USDA leaders to develop, implement, and assess national policies and strategies.



## Agricultural Ambassadors Program

Provides high school students with the opportunity to intern in USDA field offices and attend an academic and professional development workshop in Washington, DC. After completing the program Agricultural Ambassadors represent USDA at their respective high schools and serve as a resource to students interested in agricultural-related fields.

The program is designed to:

- ✓ Expand students knowledge of the importance of public service;
- ✓ Provide an educational and professional experiences; and
- ✓ Increase students awareness of career opportunities with USDA.



## HACU National Internship Program

The Hispanic Association of Colleges & University (HACU) National Internship Program provides undergraduate and graduate students with challenging and rewarding internship opportunities. The interns are selected based on their strong academic ability, leadership skills, and commitment to public service. Managers and supervisors may request interns during the Fall, Spring, and Summer.

In addition, we help recruit qualified students for other USDA programs such as the Foreign Agricultural Service International Internship Program, USDA Summer Internship Program, and others.



According to the U.S. Department of Education, an HSI is defined as a non-profit institution that has at least 25% Hispanic full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment, and of the Hispanic student enrollment, at least 50% are low income. Low income is defined as 150% of the poverty level as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau. More than 250 HSIs serve over 550,000 Hispanic students. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management reports that Hispanic Americans are the only group that is under represented in the USDA workforce (5.4%) when compared to the nation's workforce (13.1%).

Please consider partnering with us to cultivate knowledge and develop leaders in the Hispanic community and allow us to help your agency increase the representation of Hispanic Americans.





## Agricultural Liaison Officers

Agricultural Liaison Officers create strategic linkages between USDA and HSIs. They assist students, faculty and staff in accessing USDA educational and employment programs. Each liaison is assigned approximately 40 institutions. Through campus visits, presentations, e-mails, word of mouth, and referrals they are able to network with students, faculty and staff.

Agricultural Liaisons Officers raise the awareness of USDA and other federal opportunities available to the students and institutions.

This “personal touch” approach has been instrumental in creating systemic awareness of the opportunities available and the means to utilize them.



## Public Service Leaders Scholars

Provides scholarship and internship opportunities designed to promote public service and to create access to higher education for undergraduate and graduate students. Scholars are selected based on their strong academic ability, leadership skills, and commitment to public service.

USDA agencies provide Scholars with:

- ✓ Full-tuition scholarships for two to four years;
- ✓ A paid internship leading to guaranteed permanent employment;
- ✓ Mentoring, career development and leadership training;
- ✓ Employee benefits; and
- ✓ Use of a personal computer.